Dewan.—Is that your objection? Is it not very much better to pay the fee in court fee stamps instead of in money and thus avoid room for peculation?

Member.—Irrespective of the amount, the Panchayat court actually levies fees at more than 5 per cent. of the value of the suit prescribed by the rules.

Dewan.—If so, it must be in ignorance of the Regulation. I shall draw the attention of the High Court to this.

Member.—The Madras Government have abolished institution fees altogether.

Dewan.—Conditions here and in British India are not similar. In regard to court fees, if a fee of eight annas is insisted on per execution petition, it is against the provision of the law and it must be discontinued. I shall draw the attention of the High Court to this also.

94. Needs of the town of Kayankulam.

Mr. K. Gopala Panikkar. (Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam) began by saying that, though the necessity for the shifting of the Munsiff's court at Krishnapuram to Kayankulam had been represented at several previous sessions of the Assembly, that request seemed to have been persistently refused by Government on the plea that the High Court was not in favour of such a proposal. In support of his representation the Member stated that Kayankulam was not only the centre of the several *pakuthies* over which the jurisdiction of the court extended, but also an important commercial centre, superior in every way to Krishnapuram—an inaccessible, unhealthy and out-of-the-way place. It was also stated that the Member understood that the rented building in which the Munsiff's court was held at Krishnapuram had been condemned by the present Chief Justice as incommodious and ill-ventilated. The removal of the Munsiff's court to Kayankulam where all the local offices were held would afford more convenience to the litigant and the general public. The Member requested that, alike in the interests of the Municipality and the litigant public, the court might be shifted from Krishnapuram to Kayankulam as early as practicable.

He then spoke about the necessity of free supply of vaccine to Municipalities. It was stated that the benefits of vaccination were enjoyed by the inhabitants outside municipal limits without any additional burden of taxation, while the inhabitants within municipal limits had to pay for the same by way of municipal tax, because the Municipality had to pay for the supply of vaccine. He complained of the invidious distinction shown as between residents within municipal limits and those outside in the matter of sanitary relief. In view of the fact that Government entirely stopped the grant to the Municipality and that the money spent in purchasing vaccine might be utilised for other legitimate purposes, he submitted that the Municipality might be supplied with vaccine free of cost.

The Member next dwelt upon the necessity for a *satrom* within the municipal limits and for a leper asylum outside the town. He said that the Government had sanctioned the construction of a Leper Asylum at Padanayarkulangara in 1910, which, however, was subsequently dropped for reasons known only to Government. Innumerable lepers sought shelter at the Ochira temple to the annoyance and inconvenience of the general public. The Member prayed for the opening of a leper asylum either at Kayankulam or at any place near it. In regard to the *satrom* the Member represented that Kayankulam formerly had a *satrom*, now used as the local Sub-Registrar's office. The growing importance of the town called for the opening of a public *satrom*, and he prayed that, in the interests of passengers and the prestige of the town, that institution might be established at once.

Lastly, the Member pointed out the necessity for the construction of a bridge in the place of the old Alappurattu bridge. Out of the three bridges now existing in the town only two were cartable, the Kariyakkar bridge being thoroughly useless. All the carts and other vehicles plying to Eruvayil, Kirikkad and Pattiyur had to pass through the main bazaar road. The heavy traffic on the main bazaar road caused serious hardship to the public and with a view to remove that inconvenience the Member requested that the construction of a bridge at the site where the old Alappurattu bridge existed might be sanctioned.

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Dewan's reply.—You have spoken about five matters. The first one is the removal of the Krishnapuram Munsiff's court to Kayankulam. I quite see the force of your arguments in this matter, and personally I am convinced that it would be desirable to remove this Munsiff's court to Kayankulam. I asked the High Court some time ago about this. They first objected to it on the ground that, if the Munsiff's court was removed to Kayankulam, that court would be further away from the Karunagapalli treasury. I asked them why the money should not be sent to the Mavelikara treasury which is not far away from Kayankulam. They again objected on the ground that Krishnapuram was a comparatively healthier locality. I am not convinced of the reasons given by the High Court. I shall correspond with the High Court again and see whether the High Court cannot agree to the removal of the court from Krishnapuram to Kayankulam.

The next thing is about lepers. In regard to lepers I quite sympathise with you in your trouble. The Darbar Physician tells me that there is room for more lepers in the asylum maintained in Trivandrum. The Regulation has been amended within the last one year and a half and it now gives power to the District Magistrate to compel lepers to go to the Leper Asylum here. Whenever I see a leper on the roadside in whom leprosy is so far advanced as to endanger public health, I at once ask the District Magistrate concerned who has got the power, to remove him to the Leper Asylum.

Member.—If all lepers are compelled to go to the Asylum in Trivandrum, the accommodation in the Asylum may be found insufficient.

Dewan.—If the Asylum gets full, we shall increase the accommodation by putting up more sheds. Once a leper enters the Asylum he is sure to receive good attention and will be happy for the rest of his life. I will also ask the District Magistrates to circularise all subordinate Magistrates to bring to their notice cases of lepers requiring removal to the Trivandrum asylum and to take steps to compel the lepers to go to the asylum.

The next thing relates to the supply of vaccine to the municipalities and your point is that the Municipalities should not be asked to pay for it, the aim of Government being to give free vaccination to people. It is, you say, hard that an invidious distinction should be made in the case of municipal towns. This aspect of the question will be considered. The only ground on which we are now obtaining payment from the Municipalities while we supply vaccine free to people outside municipal towns is that Municipal Councils are in charge of public health within municipal limits whereas Government are in charge of it outside those limits.

You have referred to the need for a *satrom* at Kayankulam. I quite see the necessity for a *satrom* at Kayankulam. If the Sub-Registrar's office could be accommodated in a rented building, I would arrange for the restoration of the building to its original use. Government will correspond with the Director of Registration in regard to this matter.

The last thing is about a bridge. The matter will be examined by the Chief Engineer. There is a proposal to renovate the Kariakkar bridge.

95. Needs of the town of Alleppey.

Mr. N. Subbaraya Shenoi (Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey) spoke on the following works of public utility.

1. The road leading from the Palace Bridge to Tiruvampadi in the south should be completed at an early date.

2. The present cross bridges at Chungam being in disrepair, they should be renewed as early as practicable.

3. An additional grant should be sanctioned to the Municipality for the purpose of maintaining the local *satrom*.

4. The inspection of vessels touching the Alleppey port by the medical officer was being now undertaken by the Municipality at an annual cost of Rs. 600. The Member prayed that the expenditure might be met out of the general revenues as was the case formerly.

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